

What is claimed is:

1. A method of generating a predetermined field of cavitation around a remote target in an underwater environment, said method comprising the steps of:

identifying a remote target in an unconfined underwater location;

generating at least two acoustic beams from an underwater acoustic source; and

controlling said at least two generated acoustic beams to intersect with each other at said identified remote target location and whereby a cavitation field is created at said intersection.

2. The method according to claim 1 wherein said remote target location is in the range of 100m to 1 km from the acoustic source.

3. The method according to claim 1 wherein said remote target location is at least 100m from the acoustic source.

4. The method according to claim 1 wherein said remote target location is no more than 1 km from the acoustic source.

5. The method according to claim 1 wherein said acoustic beams are generated in a range frequency of from 10KHz to 15KHz.
6. The method according to claim 1 wherein said acoustic source is located onboard an underwater support vessel.
7. The method according to claim 1 wherein three acoustic beams are generated.
8. The method according to claim 1 wherein said at least two generated beams are generated to maximize cavitation at said identified remote target location.
9. A method of generating a predetermined field of destructive cavitation around a remote target in an underwater environment, said method comprising the steps of:
 - identifying a remote target location;
 - generating an array of intersecting acoustic beamforms,
 - each beamform producing a beam at peak power output,
 - from an acoustic source; and
 - controlling said array of intersecting beamforms to
 - intersect at said identified remote target location

and thereby creating the field of destructive cavitation at said intersection.

10. The method according to claim 9 wherein said remote target location is in the range of 100m to 1 km from the acoustic source.

11. The method according to claim 9 wherein said remote target location is at least 100m from the acoustic source.

12. The method according to claim 9 wherein said remote target location is no more than 1 km from the acoustic source.

13. The method according to claim 9 wherein said acoustic beamform is generated in a frequency range of from 10KHz to 15KHz.

14. The method according to claim 9 wherein said acoustic source is located onboard an underwater support vessel.

15. The method according to claim 9 wherein said array includes at least two acoustic beamforms.

16. A method of generating a predetermined field of destructive cavitation around a remote target in an underwater environment, said method comprising the steps of:

identifying a remote target location;

computing a focal point location about said identified
remote target location;

computing beam parameters for said focal point location;
and

generating at least two acoustic beam parameters whereby
cavitation is generated at said focal point
location.